GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:542
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL URBAN AREAS
RAMSINH PATALIYABHAI RATHWA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable disparity between the health services available to rural and urban areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bridge the disparity and make more health services available to rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Govt. is aware of deficiencies in the availability of Health Services in the Rural and Remote areas of the country.

(b) Health Care Institutions in rural areas are set up as well as managed by State governments.Accordingly states are now being advised to improve availability of health services in rural areas. Additionally Central Government is also taking steps to help State Governments improve the functioning of these Centres, in various ways, as outlined below:

i) Under the State Health Systems Project, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals in some states are being upgraded and equipped to provide quality health services to people in rural and backward areas.

ii) Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana/Basic Minimum services Programme, funds are being released for repair and renovation of the public health infrastructure, purchasing of drugs and for essential consumables, and contingencies etc. for improvement of quality of care.

iii) Area Development Projects are being implemented with financial assistance for strengthening of health and family welfare infrastructure and delivery system.

iv) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, the following steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health care institutions:

- Provision of equipment/medicines/vaccines for Health and Family Welfare Programmes of the First Referral Unit, PHC and sub-centre level.

- Major Civil Works for repair/construction of OT/Labour Room/upgrading of water & electric supply.

- Financial assistance for contractual/appointments/ hiring of Anaesthetists/ Gynaecologists/Safe Motherhood consultants/staff Nurses/Lab Technician/Additional ANMs etc.

- Skill based in-service training for capacity building of ANMs and other health functionaries.

(v) Schemes for optimising access to health care services in rural areas through Reproductive and Child Health Camps, Outreach Services Scheme and many programmes like New Born Care Programme, Dai Training Programme etc.